



County of Simcoe
Simcoe County Archives
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SIMCOE COUNTY ARCHIVES COLLECTIONS POLICY

By-Law #3535, being "A by-law to authorize and establish the mandate and activities of the County of Simcoe Archives," was passed November 17, 1981. This by-law reads, in part, as follows:

"The objects of the County of Simcoe Archives with respect to collection are:

- a) to act as records manager of all original documents, manuscripts, papers, records and other matters in the executive, management and administrative departments of the County of Simcoe;
- b) to classify, safe-keep, index and catalogue all matters transferred to the Archives;
- c) to collect and preserve all documents or records having any bearing upon the history of the County of Simcoe;
- d) to collect all documents or records having a bearing upon the political or social history of the County of Simcoe and upon its agricultural, industrial, commercial or financial development;
- e) to collect and preserve maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, and other matters of general or local interest historically in the County of Simcoe;
- f) to collect and preserve documents or records respecting early settlers in Simcoe, including pioneer experience, customs, mode of living, and areas of cultivation, as well as the correspondence of settlers, documents relating to public and social affairs and reports of local events of historic interest."

The Archives will therefore collect any document, image, or other information medium, which helps to accomplish the mandate described in the above by-law.

Emphasis is on original, primary source material. "Artifacts" are generally collected by the Simcoe County Museum. Secondary source materials are generally collected by libraries. Either one of these types of records, however, may, under certain circumstances, be accepted by the Archives, especially as support material for primary, archival records. An archivist may be given considerable latitude in judgement when deciding what is appropriate for acceptance by the Archives.

When deciding if potential donations conform to the Simcoe County Archives' mandate, the duty archivist, and the donor, should ask the following questions:

- 1) Do the records document, in some way, the history, geography, geology, culture or socio-economic structure of Simcoe County?
- 2) Were the records generated in Simcoe County?
- 3) If neither of the above, do the records document the life or activities of a Simcoe County native?
- 4) Are the records principally original or primary in nature?
- 5) With respect to the above by-law, in what other way do the records enrich the Archives' collection?